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# Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00502 230654Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 IO-13 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W
----------000430 230702Z /14
R 230600Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 805
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CNCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0502

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ID
SUBJECT: NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT FOR ACEH (NLFA)

REF: MEDAN 0493

1. MALAYSIAN CONSUL IN MEDAN, ZAINAL ABIDIN, HAS CONFIRMED TO CONSULATE THAT THE ETHNIC CHINESE WORKER FOR A LUMBER COMPANY OPERATING IN THE AREA OF ACEH AROUND SIGLI WHO WAS SHOT ON DEC. 14 (SEE PARA 5 REFTL) WAS A MALAYSIAN CITIZEN. ZAINAL SAID, AS HAS A MEDAN POLICE SOURCE, THAT NLFA PAMPHLETS WERE FOUND AT THE SCENE AND THE INCIDENT IS CONSIDERED LOCALLY TO HAVE BEEN DEFINITELY AN NLFA ACT. ZAINAL ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS OVER SEVERAL MONTHS WITH THE NLFA THAT HAD FORCED THE LUMBER COMPANY TO STOP OPERATIONS FOR AWHILE EARLIER, THIS SHOOTING INCIDENT HAD ACCOMPLISHED WHAT THE NLFA DESIRED: 24 MALAYSIAN EMPLOYEES FOR THE COMPANY HAVE GONE HOME OUT OF FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES IF THEY CONTINUE TO WORK IN ACEH AND THE COMPANY IS BEING FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN AGAIN. ZAINAL SAID THE OWNER OF THE COMPANY IS AN ETHNIC CHINESE INDONESIAN WHOM HE BELIEVES HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY THE NLFA FOR MONEY IN THE PAST.
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2. ZAINAL IS FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT MORE TROUBLE CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE NLFA IN COMING MONTHS. HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO ADD TO OURS ABOUT THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE GROUP, BUT HE THINKS THAT CONDITIONS IN ACEH ARE SUCH AS TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO STAMP OUT THE GROUP COMPLETELY AND IT ONLY TAKES A FEW TO CONTINUE TERRORIST ACTS. HE HAD BEEN TOLD ON AN

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EARLIER VISIT TO BANDA ACEH BY THE GOVERNOR THAT HASAN DE TIRO, THE AT LEAST PAPER HEAD OF THE NLFA, HAD MET WITH DAUD BEUREUEH, THE OLD REVOLUTIONARY LEADER LIVING NEAR SIGLI WHO HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE LEADER OF THE RECENTLY ORGANIZED NLFA. ZAINAL FELT SURE, ON THE BASIS OF HIS SOURCES OF INFORMATION, THAT DE TIRO HIMSELF IS NOT THE REAL LEADER OF THE GROUP, ALTHOUGH HE IS UNDOUBTEDLY WRITING SOME OF THE MATERIAL FOR IT. HE EXPLAINED THAT DE TIRO IS CONSIDERED TOO MUCH OF AN OPPORTUNIST BY THE LOCAL ACEHNESE TO BE ACCEPTED AS A LEADER; HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE SKIPPED THE COUNTRY IN THE DAYS OF THE DARUL ISLAM REBELLION WITH FUNDS TO BUY ARMS IN THE U.S. AND TO HAVE REMAINED THERE USING THE MONEY FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL BETTERMENT. DE TIRO REPORTEDLY WAVES THIS ASIDE WITH THE EXCUSE THAT THE MONEY WAS ALL FROM HATED MEDAN CHINESE BUSINESSMEN ANYWAY (WHICH WAS APPARENTLY TRUE) BUT THIS STILL DOES NOT EXCUSE HIM IN THE EYES OF THE ACEHNESE FOR HIS FAILURE TO DELIVER BACK THE ARMS. ZAINAL WAS UNABLE TO SAY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WHETHER IT IS INDEED DAUD OR SOMEONE ELSE WHO IS THE REAL FORCE BEHIND RECENT NLFA INCIDENTS.

3. A RUMOR IS CIRCULATING IN THE MEDAN PRESS CORPS THAT DETIRO HAS SLIPPED BACK INTO ACEH TO LEAD THE NLFA. SIMILAR RUMORS HAVE BEEN HEARD OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS AND WE TEND TO DOUBT THEIR VERACITY UNLESS WASHINGTON HAS INFORMATION THAT DE TIRO HAS LEFT HIS OLD NEW YORK NEST.
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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**TAGS:** PINS, ID
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